

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented): A coating composition, said composition comprising:
  - (1) a polyamide-amic acid (PAA), said PAA comprising amide-amic acid units each comprising a carboxyl group, and in addition to said PAA;
  - (2) a neutralizing agent capable of neutralizing a carboxyl group, and in addition to said PAA and said neutralizing agent;
  - (3) a directly linkable molecule, said molecule being one that is linkable to a carboxyl group; and
  - (4) water.
2. (Currently amended): A coating composition of Claim 1 wherein the directly linkable molecule is a cross-linker capable of being simultaneously linked to both a [[the]] carboxyl group of the PAA and to a molecule other than the PAA, and wherein said molecule other than the PAA optionally is another molecule of said crosslinker.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Previously presented): A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein the directly linkable molecule is selected from the group consisting of a siloxane, a polysiloxane, an amine, a polyamine-imine, an oxazoline, a polyoxozaline, and a polyurethane.

5. (Original): A coating composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein the directly linkable molecule comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of an epoxy, amino, hydroxyl, isocyanate, oxazoline, and a carboxyl moiety.

6. (Original): A composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said neutralizing agent is selected from the group consisting of secondary amines, tertiary amines, ammonia, a metal base, a metal carbonate, and a quaternary molecule.

7. (Original): A composition of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said neutralizing agent reversibly neutralizes the carboxyl groups on the PAA molecule.

Claims 8-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended): A coating composition of Claim 2, wherein the molecule other than the PAA [[one of the two other molecules]] is another molecule of the cross-linker.

15. (Currently amended) A coating composition of Claim 2, wherein the composition further comprises said molecule other than the PAA, and wherein said molecule other than the PAA optionally is another molecule of said crosslinker.

16. (Currently amended): A coating composition of Claim 15 wherein the [[cross-linkable]] directly linkable molecule is selected from the group consisting of a siloxane, a polysiloxane, an amine, a polyamine-imine, an oxazoline, a polyoxazoline, and a polyurethane.

17. (Currently amended): A coating composition of Claim 15 wherein the [[cross-linkable]] directly linkable molecule comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of an epoxy, amino, hydroxyl, isocyanate, oxazoline, and a carboxyl moiety.

Claims 18-23 (Canceled).

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24. (Currently amended): A coating prepared from a coating composition of Claims  
[[1 or 2]] 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, 16, or 17.

Claims 25-49 (canceled).